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ROBUST CONTINUES AS THE LEADING BARLEY IN MINNESOTA

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Robust is the leading planted barley variety in Minnesota for the eighth consecutive year. At 49.1 percent of barley acres planted, Robust has its smallest share of Minnesota's planted barley acreage since 1997. A strong showing from Lacey, especially in the Northwest District, has been a chief contributor to Robust's decline in dominance. Total planted barley acreage in Minnesota for 2005 is estimated at 120,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from last year. The Northwest District contains the largest portion of State barley acreage at 62.5 percent (75,000 acres), followed by the Central District at 13.5 percent (16,200 acres), the West Central District at 9 percent (10,700 acres) and the Southeast District at 7 percent (8,200 acres). The remaining five districts have 9,900 acres of barley, or 8 percent of the total acreage.

IN THIS ISSUE:

BARLEY VARIETIES

CATTLE

SHEEP and LAMBS

EGG PRODUCTION

MINK



Robust, a six-rowed malting variety with medium yield, maturity and lodging resistance and good kernel plumpness, is planted on 58,900 acres and accounts for 49 percent of the State's planted barley acres. This is nearly four percentage points lower than last year. In the Northwest District, Robust was planted on 33,600 acres, or 45 percent of the district barley acreage. The Central District had 10,700 acres of Robust, which is 66 percent of the district acreage. The West Central District had 6,400 acres, or 60 percent of the district acreage and the Southeast District had 4,000 acres, or 49 percent of the district acreage. The remaining five districts have 4,200 acres of Robust, representing 42 percent of their combined acreage.

Lacey, another six-rowed malting variety with high yield and good lodging resistance and kernel plumpness, is planted on 39 percent of the total acres, up over a percentage point from last year. This corresponds to 46,900 statewide acres for 2005. Lacey led all varieties in acreage planted in the Northwest District with 35,100 acres, or 47 percent of the district total. The West Central District had 3,900 acres and the Central District had 3,000 acres planted, 36 and 19 percent of the district acreage, respectively. The remaining districts totaled 4,900 acres, which is 27 percent of their combined acreage.

Tradition and Legacy came in a distant third and fourth with 3,200 acres and 2,400 acres planted, respectively. Tradition is a six-rowed malting variety with high yield and medium maturity, lodging resistance and kernel plumpness and was planted on 2.7 percent of the State's barley acreage. Legacy is a six-rowed malting variety with high yield and medium-late maturity and was planted on 2.0 percent of the State's barley acreage. Tradition was almost exclusively planted in the Northwest District with 3,200 acres and 4.3 percent of the district acreage. Legacy was most commonly planted in the Northwest District with 1,800 acres or 2.4 percent of the district acreage.

Feed varieties accumulating more than one percent of total barley plantings were Royal and Stander. Royal is six-rowed variety with excellent forage quality and was planted on 2,300 acres or 1.9 percent of the State barley acreage. Stander is a six-rowed variety with high yield, late maturity and very good lodging resistance with 1,700 acreas planted in Minnesota or 1.4 percent of the combined State acreage.

The remaining 3.8 percent or 4,600 acres of State barley acreage is attributed to other varieties including Conlon, Drummond, Excel, Foster, Gamine, Haybet, Hazen, Kewaunee, Morex, MNBrite, Stark, and Westford. The American Malting Barley Association, Inc. (AMBA) has recommended Conlon, Drummond, Excel, Foster, Lacey, Legacy, Morex, Robust and Tradition as malting barley varieties for planting in this region for 2005. Those remaining are feed varieties.

Barley varietal information provided by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Minnesota. Partial funding for this variety survey was provided by the American Malting Barley Association, Inc.

BARLEY: PERCENT SEEDED BY VARIETY, MINNESOTA, 2001-2005

		2005					
Variety	2001 2002		2003	2004	2005	Acres Planted	
Percent							
Conlon	1/	1/	2.0	1/	1/	1/	
Excel	1/	1.8	2.2	1.2	1/	1/	
Lacey	9.6	29.1	32.3	37.8	39.1	46,900	
Legacy	1/	2.1	1.3	1.4	2.0	2,400	
Robust	74.4	56.7	57.3	52.8	49.1	58,900	
Royal	2.0	2.8	1.5	2.7	1.9	2,300	
Stander	7.4	3.2	1.5	1/	1.4	1,700	
Tradition	1/	1/	1/	1/	2.7	3,200	
Other	6.6	4.3	1.9	4.2	3.8	4,600	
STATE	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	120,000	

1/ Less than one percent, included in Other.

Note: Percents may not be add to 100 due to rounding.

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U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 3 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.4 million head on July 1, 2005. The inventory was 3 percent above July 1, 2004 and 5 percent above July 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during June totaled 1.77 million, 7 percent above 2004 and 6 percent above 2003. Net placements were 1.71 million. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 412,000, 600-699 pounds were 347,000, 700-799 pounds were 480,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 530,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during June totaled 2.07 million, 1 percent below 2004 and 7 percent below 2003.

Other disappearance totaled 63,000 during June, 10 percent below 2004 but 3 percent above 2003.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, by Month. State, and United States 2004-2005 1/

by Month, State, and Officed States 2004-2003 1/								
			Jul 1, 2005					
State	Jul 1, 2004	Jun 1, 2005	Number	as % of 2004	as % of Jun			
	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	Percent	Percent			
AZ CA CO ID IA KS NM OK SD TX WA	295 520 940 240 390 2,090 1,850 124 315 173 2,760 165	329 515 970 245 435 2,280 2,050 127 325 186 2,890 137	322 520 910 260 415 2,200 1,820 132 320 161 2,950	109 100 97 108 106 105 98 106 102 93 107 86	98 101 94 106 95 96 89 104 98 87 102 104			
Oth Sts	270	280	250	93	89			
US	10,132	10,769	10,402	103	97			

^{1/} Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

U.S. JULY 1 CATTLE INVENTORY UP 1 PERCENT

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2005, totaled 104.5 million head, up 1 percent from the 103.6 million on July 1, 2004 and 1 percent above the 103.9 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.8 million, were 1 percent above the 42.5 million on July 1, 2004 and slightly above the 42.7 million two years ago. Beef cows, at 33.8 million, were up 1 percent from July 1, 2004 and up slightly from two years ago. Milk cows, at 9.05 million, were up 1 percent from July 1, 2004, but down 1 percent from two years ago.

JULY 1 ALL SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY UP 2 PERCENT

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 2005, totaled 7.80 million head, 2 percent above July 1, 2004. Breeding sheep inventory at 4.66 million head on July 1, 2005, was 2 percent above July 1, 2004. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs) at 3.14 million head, were 1 percent above last July.

The breeding herd consists of 3.79 million ewes one year old and older, 185,000 rams one year old and older, and 680,000 replacement lambs (including newborn lambs). **Market lamb** inventory at 3.06 million head was comprised of 1.81 million lambs under 65 pounds, 635,000 lambs 65-84 pounds, 350,000 lambs 85-105 pounds, and 260,000 lambs over 105 pounds. Market sheep inventory was 90,000.

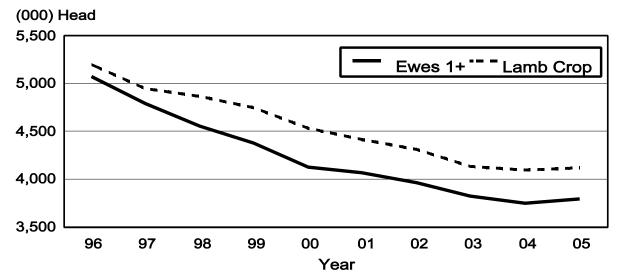
The 2005 Lamb Crop in the United States is expected to total 4.12 million head, up 1 percent from the 2004 lamb crop of 4.10 million head. Lambs born during January through June 2005 totaled 3.65 million head or 89 percent of the yearly total. An additional 470,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 2005.

All Sheep and Lambs Inventory: By Region and United States, July 1, 2004-2005

and omica states, sary 1, 2001 2000							
Regions 1/	All Sheep and Lambs		2005 as %	Breeding Sheep and Lambs		Market Sheep and Lambs	
	2004	2005	of 2004	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	Pct	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	1,000 Head
Region 1	1,290	1,300	101	810	805	480	495
Region 2	1,470	1,500	102	960	1,000	510	500
Region 3	2,600	2,650	102	1,430	1,460	1,170	1,190
Region 4	1,180	1,200	102	650	665	530	535
Region 5	1,110	1,150	104	695	725	415	425
US	7,650	7,800	102	4,545	4,655	3,105	3,145

^{1/} States included in regions as follows: 1 - AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA; 2 - NM & TX; 3 - CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY;

United States Total Breeding Ewes 1+ and Lamb Crop July 1, 1996-2005



The 1996-2004 Lamb Crop is the January estimate. The 2005 estimate is the July forecast.

^{4 -} IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK; 5 - all other States.

JUNE EGG OUTPUT UP 2 PERCENT IN STATE

Minnesota layers produced 244 million eggs during June 2005 versus 239 million in June 2004, an increase of 2 percent. Laying flocks in the U.S. produced 7.34 billion eggs in June, up slightly from a year ago.

Poultry Stats - June

Total Eggs Produced	MN U.S.	2004 239 Mil. 7,289Mil.	2005 244 Mil. 7,342 Mil.
Number of Layers	MN U.S.	10.6 Mil. 342.8 Mil.	10.8 Mil. 341.4 Mil.
Eggs per 100 Layers CHICKENS: Hatched (June)	MN U.S.	2,251 2,126	2,251 2,151
Egg-Type	MN U.S.	0.8 Mil. 37.5 Mil.	1.1 Mil. 34.5 Mil.
Broiler-Type	U.S.	786.6 Mil.	796.0 Mil.
Eggs in Incubators (July 1)			
Egg-Type	WNC* U.S.	8.8 Mil. 35.6 Mil.	8.7 Mil. 33.0 Mil.
Broiler-Type	WNC* U.S.	23.6 Mil. 659.2 Mil.	23.3 Mil. 657.6 Mil.
TURKEYS:			
Placed (June)	WNC* U.S.	8.8 Mil. 23.3 Mil.	9.5 Mil. 23.7 Mil.
Eggs in	0.5.	25.5 Will.	25.7 1
Incubators (July 1)	WNC* U.S.	11.5 Mil. 31.0 Mil.	11.4 Mil. 30.4 Mil.

*West North Central Region (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North & South Dakota, Minnesota.)

MINNESOTA MINK PELT PRODUCTION DOWN 10 PERCENT FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

Minnesota, one of the nation's leading mink producing states, placed fourth in 2004 pelt production behind Wisconsin, Utah, and Oregon. Total state production for 2004 amounted to 220,600 mink pelts, down 10 percent from 245,200 in 2003. By color class, Mahogany accounted for 37.1 percent of the total 2004 production; Demi/Wild, 22.2 percent; Blue Iris, 14.1 percent; Black, 17.1 percent; White, 6.3 percent; Sapphire, 1.1 percent; and Violet, 0.3 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 1.8 percent.

Minnesota was fourth in the nation in the total number of females bred to produce kits in 2005, behind Wisconsin, Utah, and Oregon. Minnesota females bred for 2005 at 49,900 was down 3 percent from 2004. Of these females, Mahogany color class claimed 33.3 percent; Demi/Wild, 20.4 percent; Black, 20.4 percent; Blue Iris, 13.4 percent; and White, 8.6 percent. The remaining color classes accounted for 3.9 percent.

Total United States production for 2004 was 2.56 million pelts, up less than 1 percent from 2.55 million in 2003. Wisconsin, the leading mink producing state, produced 768,000 pelts in 2004, 30.0 percent of the nation's total. Utah, the second ranked mink producing state, produced a 22.6 percent share with 580,000 pelts. Oregon ranked third with a production of 247,100 pelts in 2004.

In the U.S., there were 296 mink farms producing pelts in 2004, down 3 percent from a year ago. The leading states were Utah with 80 farms, Wisconsin with 67 farms, and Minnesota with 28 farms.

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